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Confidential Adviser

It was highly fitting that Mr. Truman should recognize publicly the important contribution to the President and to the national security on the part of Rear Admiral Sidney W. Souers. Admiral Souers, a businessman whose military title derives from war-time service in naval intelligence, has been to President Truman a sort of Harry Hopkins and Colonel House combined. That has been the informal side of this selfless and dedicated man in his function as the President's confidential adviser on national security matters.

Admiral Souers was the first director of what is now the Central Intelligence Agency and the first executive secretary of the National Security Council. He was the mainspring of the legislation that established the CIA and the Security Council, and he has taken a great interest in psychological strategy. He has remained as a consultant in almost daily contact with the President—giving him a sort of barometrical reading of the state of the world in relation to the national security.

Probably no one was more surprised than Admiral Souers when the President presented him with the

Distinguished Service Medal. His very qualities as an *eminence grise*, plus an unusually broad understanding of world strategy, have been the key to Admiral Souers' success. He has known how to stay in the background, consulting and offering advice when called upon, but never intruding himself. A self-seeker or egotist could not have succeeded in such a job.

Fortunately for the sake of continuity, Admiral Souers will continue as a part-time consultant to the Central Intelligence Agency. His experience will thus be available for the new Administration to draw upon. Whatever the title that is given to the functions he has performed, moreover, they will need to be performed by somebody in the Eisenhower Administration. We hope his successor will be a man as knowledgeable and as discreet as Admiral Souers.